

PLENARY SESSION

JANUARY 10, 1968—12:00 NOON

PRESIDENT H. VERNON ENEY,

PRESIDING

THE PRESIDENT: The Sergeant-at-Arms will clear the aisles and close the doors.

The Convention will please come to order.

The invocation today will be offered by the Reverend Bruce K. Price, delegate to this Convention.

Reverend Price.

DELEGATE PRICE: May we pray.

We thank Thee, O God, for the privilege of bearing witness in this terrific generation in which our lives are set. We thank Thee for the faith of our fathers living still—the most precious thing we have received from the past—the most precious thing we have to pass on to those who come after us.

To be alive is to participate in drama. Yet, as individuals, we confess that we have not always played our parts with grace. We have called things God which are not God. We have worshipped at the wrong altars. We have burned incense at the wrong shrines. We have not loved when we have been loved. We have not trusted each other when we have been entrusted with life by Thee. We have refused to accept wholeheartedly the good intent of others in the mending of differences.

As we look back upon the past may we remember not only the pleasant moments, but also may we recall the sad and tragic hours that added depth to our faith. As we peer from this point into the hazy mists of the future, may we remember who and what we are so that we do not expect too much.

Give us the insight to know that not everything old is bad, nor everything new is good, and conversely, that not everything old is good, nor everything new is bad. Remembering with gratitude the past months spent together and anticipating the future with hope, strengthen us that we may continually live out our days in the present with calm reality, glowing enthusiasm, vibrant faith, personal integrity, and righteous abandon.

And when our vision fails, and when our understanding is darkened, and when the

ways of life seem hard, and the brightness of life is gone, we pray that Thou wilt grant the wisdom that deepens faith when sight is dim, and enlarges trust when the understanding is not clear. As we go from this point, may we face life without fear, death without fainting, and whatsoever may be in the life to come, give us confident hope that whatsoever is best for us both here and hereafter is Thy good pleasure and will be Thy law.

In quiet confidence, in patient trust, we thank Thee, O God, with hearts and hands and voices.

Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Roll call.

Has every delegate answered the roll call?

(There was no response.)

The Clerk will record the roll call.

There being a quorum present, the Convention is in session.

Because of the unprecedented number of guests, we have decided to leave the doors in the galleries and in the main corridor open as long as we can do so without interfering with the proceedings of the Convention.

The people you see on the floor surrounding the delegates' seats are members of the staff. They have worked long and hard for the past four months and we felt that it was their privilege to be present on the occasion of the signing of the constitution. They are the only persons permitted on the floor other than the special guests of the Convention and the photographers and press.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Powers, Chairman of the Committee on Calendar and Agenda.

DELEGATE POWERS: Mr. President, I move that today's Calendar be adopted.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there a second?

(The motion was duly seconded.)

THE PRESIDENT: All those in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it. It is so ordered. The calendar is adopted.

The Chair has a few announcements to make.

The flowers in the center of the rostrum are placed there as they have been on so